

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR. RH, UK
SUBJECT: BRITISH PRESS ON GENEVA TALKS, DECEMBER 14

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE, DATELINED WASHINGTON, DEC. 13,
APPEARED IN THE TIMES UNDER THE HEADLINE, "KISSINGER MEN
FLYING WITH RHODESIA PLAN TO LONDON".
BEGIN TEXT: TWO OF DR. KISSINGER'S LEADING ASSISTANTS
ARE FLYING TO LONDON ON WEDNESDAY TO CONFER WITH BRITISH
OFFICIALS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR HAVING BRITISH CABINET
OFFICERS IN A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA.
MR. JOHN REINHARDT, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS, AND MR. FRANK WISNER, CHIEF DESK OFFICER FOR
SOUTHERN AFRICA, WILL "STUDY POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES THAT
MAY BE USED AT THIS STAGE", THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKES-
MAN SAID TODAY.
OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON SAY THEY ARE NOT DISTRESSED
BY THE RECESS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. THEY DESCRIBE
IT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STOCK-TAKING.

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WHILE IN LONDON LAST WEEKEND, DR. KISSINGER EXPLORED

WITH MR. CROSLAND, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, A MODIFIED PLAN FOR TRANSITION TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE. THE BRITISH WOULD PROVIDE A CHIEF OF STATE AND A MINISTER FOR THE COMBINED POSTS OF JUSTICE AND DEFENSE.

ALSO UNDER DISCUSSION IS THE POSSIBILITY OF A MILITARY FORCE FROM OTHER COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES TO KEEP THE PEACE AS MR. SMITH'S WHITE MINORITY GOVERNMENT YIELDS POWER.--AP. RAY KENNEDY WRITES FROM JOHANNESBURG: MR. IAN SMITH, THE RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER, SAID HERE TODAY HE PLANS NEGOTIATIONS WITH BLACK DELEGATIONS IN SALISBURY DURING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE RECESS.

LOOKING TIRED AND DESPONDENT AS HE AWAITED A CONNECTING FLIGHT TO SALISBURY, HE SAID OF THE GENEVA NEGOTIATIONS: "I THINK WE HAVE GONE FURTHER AWAY FROM THE OBJECTIVE." HE THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS STILL HOPE.

ALTHOUGH HE WAS AT THE JOHANNESBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR SEVERAL HOURS THERE WAS NO INDICATION THAT HE MET ANY SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE BELIEVE THAT ONE OF HIS FIRST MEETINGS WILL BE WITH BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA, WHO RETURNED TO SALISBURY FROM GENEVA YESTERDAY. IT IS BEING SAID THAT DESPITE THE HARD LINE ATTITUDE THE BISHOP ADOPTED PUBLICLY ON HIS RETURN, A NEW SMITH-MUZOREWA AXIS AGAINST THE PATRIOTIC FRONT OF MR. JOSHUA NKOMO AND MR. ROBERT MUGABE IS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, A LEADING ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD COME FROM THE REV. NDABANINGI SITHOLE PRIOR TO A NEW DEAL BEING PRESENTED TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

MICHAEL KNIPE WRITES FROM SALISBURY: ASKED ON ARRIVAL HERE IF HE CONTEMPLATED AN ARRANGEMENT WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA, MR. SMITH SAID THAT WOULD DEPEND ON A NUMBER OF CIRCUMSTANCES. HE SAID THE BISHOP PROBABLY ENJOYED MORE SUPPORT AMONG POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS AFRICANS-- URBAN AFRICANS--THAN ANY OF THE OTHER AFRICAN NATIONALIST LEADERS.

IF THE BISHOP WAS NOT WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS INSIDE RHODESIA THAT WAS HIS BUSINESS, MR. SMITH ADDED. BUT HE WAS ALWAYS WILLING TO TALK WITH ANYONE PREPARED TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE' "PARTICULARLY LEADERS OF POLITICAL OPINION INSIDE RHODESIA."

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RESIDENT COMMISSIONER: MR. NKOMO SAID IN LONDON BEFORE FLYING TO GENEVA THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO THE CONFERENCE AFTER CHRISTMAS ONLY IF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO PLACE A RESIDENT COMMISSIONER IN CHARGE DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD BEFORE BLACK MAJORITY RULE. END TEXT

2. THE GUARDIAN DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT PATRICK

KEATLEY: "THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, MR. CROSLAND, WILL MAKE
A STATEMENT ON RHODESIA IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TODAY IF
HE RETURNS FROM BRUSSELS IN TIME. LONDON AND WASHINGTON
ARE WORKING ON A SCHEME TO REPLACE THE KISSINGER PLAN

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WHICH BECOMES OBSOLETE ON JANUARY 20 WHEN MR. CARTER TAKE
OVER THE U.S. PRESIDENCY.
THE KISSINGER PLAN, DESCRIBED AS A CONTRACTUAL AGREE-
MENT BY MR. IAN SMITH, HAS BEEN REJECTED BY ALL FOUR
AFRICAN DELEGATIONS AT THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. IT WAS
MADE CLEAR TO MR. CROSLAND AT LAST FRIDAY'S DISAPPOINTING
MEETING WITH DR. KISSINGER IN LONDON THAT BRITAIN COULD
EXPECT NO HIGH-LEVEL INTERVENTION BY THE FORD ADMINISTRA-
TION IN ITS REMAINING WEEKS IN OFFICE. A DIFFERENT KIND
OF ANGLO-AMERICAN OPERATION HAS SINCE BEEN CAUTIOUSLY
INITIATED.
A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, MR. JOHN REINHARDT, IS
LEAVING WASHINGTON FOR TALKS IN WHITEHALL IN THE NEXT

DAY OR TWO. HE WILL TAKE PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS TO BE CHAIRED BY THE BRITISH MINISTER OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, MR. TED ROWLANDS, WHEN THE WORK ON THE NEW SCHEME WILL BEGIN.

LIKE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, MR. RICHARD, MR. REINHARDT IS AN OFFICIAL RATHER THAN A POLITICAL FIGURE
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IN WASHINGTON AND IS CERTAINLY IN NO POSITION TO COMMIT HIS FUTURE BOSS, MR. CYRUS VANCE, WHO SUCCEEDS DR. KISSINGER IN JANUARY. NOT TOO MUCH CAN THUS BE READ INTO THIS VISIT, DESPITE REPORTS IN WASHINGTON THAT "A KEY U.S. NEGOTIATOR" IS ON HIS WAY IN SOME KIND OF RESCUE OPERATION.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE WORK ON THE RHODESIA PROBLEM WILL HAVE TO BE READY BY THE TIME THE RHODESIA CONFERENCE RECONVENES, POSSIBLY AT THE END OF JANUARY. ONE POSSIBILITY BEING CANVASSED IS A JOINT MISSION TO SOUTHERN AFRICA BY MR. ROWLANDS AND A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, MOST LIKELY MR. WILLIAM SCHAUFEELE. HE TRAVELLED WITH MR. ROWLANDS ON HIS LAST CIRCUIT TOUR, VISITING THE "FRONT LINE" AFRICAN STATES. THEY MET PRESIDENTS NYERERE AND KAUNDA, AND MR. VORSTER, AND MAY WELL DO SO AGAIN THIS TIME, IF FAVORABLE REPLIES ARE RECEIVED TO MESSAGES SUGGESTING A NEW MISSION."

3. FINANCIAL TIMES AFRICA CORRESPONDENT BRIDGET BLOOM:

"MR. ANTHONY CROSLAND, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, WILL TODAY ANNOUNCE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA AND WILL TELL PARLIAMENT THAT MR. IVOR RICHARD, THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN IS TO VISIT AFRICA DURING THE CONFERENCE RECESS.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT, WHICH WILL NAME JANUARY 17 AS THE DATE WHEN THE CONFERENCE WILL RESUME, IS ALSO EXPECTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT BRITAIN IS NOW FORMALLY COMMITTED TO PLAYING A DIRECT ROLE IN ANY INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA WHICH IS SET UP AS A RESULT OF THE RECONVENED CONFERENCE.

HOWEVER, MR. CROSLAND IS NOT EXPECTED TO EXPLAIN THIS ROLE IN DETAIL TODAY. THIS WILL ONLY BE DONE AFTER MR. RICHARD HAS DISCUSSED BRITISH PLANS IN AFRICA.

MR. CROSLAND'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS CONSULTATION WITH THE FOUR AFRICAN AND THE ONE WHITE RHODESIAN DELEGATION IN GENEVA. IT HAS THE FULL BACKING OF THE U.S. HAVING BEEN DISCUSSED IN WEEKEND MEETINGS IN LONDON BETWEEN BRITISH MINISTERS AND DR. HENRY KISSINGER, THE OUTGOING SECRETARY OF STATE.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE AFRICAN DELEGATIONS YESTERDAY WERE INFORMED OF THE CONTENTS OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S STATEMENT.
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TARY'S STATEMENT TODAY. BUT THEY WILL BE TOLD OFFICIALLY
OF THE ADJOURNMENT WHEN MR. RICHARD TODAY CONVEYS THE
TEXT OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT IN LETTERS TO

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ALL DELEGATION HEADS.
NONE OF THE AFRICAN DELEGATION LEADERS WHOM MR.
RICHARD SAW YESTERDAY WOULD COMMENT ON THEIR REACTION TO
THE ADJOURNMENT, BEYOND SAYING THAT SINCE IT WAS A
BRITISH CONFERENCE, IT WAS THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S
PREROGATIVE TO ADJOURN IT.
HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT ALL THE
AFRICAN DELEGATIONS WELCOME THE MORE POSITIVE STAND
BEING TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT, A NUMBER ARE CONCERNED

AT THE MANNER OF THE CONFERENCE'S ENDING.
IN PARTICULAR, DELEGATES EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THEY
HAVE NOT BEEN TOLD DETAILS OF THE NEW PROPOSALS WHICH
BRITAIN IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE PREPARING AS A BASIS FOR NE-
GOTIATION BY THE RESUMED CONFERENCE. THEY ARE WORRIED
THAT MR. CROSLAND'S STATEMENT TODAY MIGHT TURN OUT NOT TO
BE POSITIVE ENOUGH TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM DURING THE
RECESS.
IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ON HIS AFRICAN VISIT, MR.
RICHARD WILL MEET THE FRONT LINE AFRICAN PRESIDENT AS WELL
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AS THE AFRICAN NATIONALIST LEADERS.
IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE WILL GO TO SALISBURY AND
PRETORIA, ALTHOUGH IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THE ATTITUDE OF
MR. IAN SMITH, THE RHODESIAN PREMIER, TO THE NEW BRITISH
PROPOSALS WILL BE A KEY FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE ULTI-
MATE SUCCESS OF THE RESUMED CONFERENCE.
BRITISH STRATEGY IS BEING DEVISED IN CLOSE CONSULTA-
TION WITH WASHINGTON AND MR. RICHARD'S PRECISE ITINERARY
MAY NOT BE DECIDED UNTIL MEETINGS ARE CONCLUDED WITH
SENIOR STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE DUE IN LONDON
ON THURSDAY.
SPEAKING IN JOHANNESBURG ON HIS WAY HOME FROM THE
CONFERENCE, MR. SMITH SAID: "I THINK WE ARE FURTHER AWAY
FROM THE OBJECTIVE THAN WHEN WE STARTED."
ONCE THE ORIGINAL KISSINGER PROPOSALS WERE MODIFIED,
HE SAID HIS UNDERTAKINGS TO TURN OVER POWER BECAME
"OBSOLETE".
AT A CONFERENCE GIVEN ON HIS RETURN TO SALISBURY, HOW-
EVER, HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO PLANS AT THIS TIME TO TRY
AND REACH A SETTLEMENT WITH BLACK RHODESIANS UNCONNECTED
WITH THE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT, AND THAT IT WAS "A POS-
SIBILITY THAT HE MIGHT TRY AND NEGOTIATE WITH BLACK
PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE DURING THE RECESS."ARMSTRONG

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